

Key Analysis Questions

- Who made the artwork?
- What are the circumstances of the arts maker's life?
- What subject matter (people, places, or things) does the artwork depict?
- What is the work's medium?
- How was the artwork made? (tools, materials, and processes)
- What visual elements do you see in the artwork? (line, colour, shape, light and dark, texture, mass, and space)
- Examine how the graphic details contribute to the work. Think about what has been left out. Pay attention to the framing of an image.
- How do the elements in the artwork work together? (For example, are parts repeated, balanced, emphasized, contrasted?)
- What do you focus on?
- Can you identify what the focal point of the work might be?
- What is the natural environment like where the artwork was made? (for example, climate, landforms, natural resources)
- How is/was the artwork used?
- Scrutinize the following elements: position of the characters, posture and gesture, activities, clothing and technology. Think about what has been excluded or left out. These omissions may prove to be more than a matter of detail.
- What can you determine about what people thought, believed, or did in the culture in which the artwork was made?
- What can you learn about the art ideas, beliefs, and activities that were important in the culture in which the artwork was made?
- Why did the art maker want the artwork to look the way it does?
- What is the purpose of the work?
- Who was or is the audience for the artwork?
- How did the person(s) for whom the artwork was made (for example, a patron, user, or other viewer of the time) understand it?
- How did people respond to it initially?
- How was the artwork understood within the culture in which it was made?
- What is it about?
- What cultural, political, economic, and spiritual values are exposed in these through these murals?
- Are there other people's viewpoints you want to consider? If so, whose?